

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00172 011636Z

72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 NEA-11 OPR-02 A-01 NIC-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

(ISO) W

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R 011610Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5358

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUBLIN 0172

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EI

SUBJ: PROVOS APPARENTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MASSIVE BOMB HOAX

REF: DUBLIN 0165

1. FINAL COUNT OF INCIDENTS IN JANUARY 30 BOMB HOAX WAS 17 TRUCKS AND BUSES HIGHJACKED, ONE OF THEM BURNED, ALL PLANTED WITH FAKE BOMBS. ALL WERE PLACED IN STRATEGIC LOCATIONS, AND RESULT WAS LENGTHY TRAFFIC DISRUPTION. GROUP IDENTIFYING ITSELF AS DUBLIN BRIGADE OF PROVISIONAL IRA HAS RELEASED STATEMENT CLAIMING RESPONSIBILITY. STATEMENT DEPARTS IN DETAIL FROM USUAL PROVO PRACTICE, LEAVING SOME QUESTIONS AS TO AUTHENTICITY OR POSSIBLE DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN PROVO RANKS. BASIC RESPONSIBILITY OF PROVOS SEEMS GENERALLY ACCEPTED, HOWEVER.

2. THOUGH INCIDENT TURNED OUT TO BE HOAX, IT STRETCHED TO LIMIT THE STANDING IRA RULE OF AVOIDING VIOLENCE IN REPUBLIC. BUS HIGHJACKINGS BY ARMED MEN ARE FAR FROM NORMAL IDEA OF PEACEFUL DEMONSTRATION. GOI IS OBVIOUSLY DISTURBED AND EXAMINING POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER ACTION AGAINST PROVOS. WE AWAIT

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00172 011636Z

RESULTS WITH INTEREST. WHILE JANUARY 30 INCIDENTS DEMONSTRATED

NEED FOR MORE STEPS AGAINST PROVOS, THEY ALSO SHOWED HOW MUCH VIOLENCE IRA COULD CAUSE IN REPUBLIC IF IT WISHED. WE ASSUME THAT GOI IS WELL AWARE OF THREAT. LONG BEFORE HE TOOK OFFICE AS MINISTER, GARRET FITZGERALD TOLD US HE FEARED THE IRA WOULD TURN VIOLENT IN REPUBLIC ONE DAY.

3. ACCORDING TO ABOVE IRA STATEMENT, MOTIVE OF HOAX WAS TO DRAMATIZE PLIGHT OF REPUBLICAN PRISONERS IN ENGLISH JAILS. BOMB HOAX HAS DONE NOTHING TO INCREASE PUBLIC SUPPORT. NEVERTHELESS, ISSUE IS TURNING OUT TO BE GOOD ONE FOR PROVOS, AS FORCE-FEEDING OF HUNGER-STRIKERS RAISES GENUINE CONCERN. CAMPAIGN FOR JAILED PRICE SISTERS IS, HOWEVER, STILL HAVING ONLY MODERATE IMPACT. MOORE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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